

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 STR-04 AID-05
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R 181000Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1123
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GB
SUBJ: GABON TO IMPORT MEAT FROM SWAZILAND

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 1281 (B) BUJUMBURA 1059 (NOTAL)

1. ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 17 DAILY "L'UNION" REPORTS SIGNATURE OF PRIVATE CONTRACT BETWEEN LIBREVILLE MEAT IMPORT COMPANY SODUCO AND SWAZILAND MEAT CORPORATION. CONTRACT, WHICH WAS SIGNED IN LIBREVILLE DECEMBER 11, PROVIDES FOR SIXTY TONS OF BEEF FROM SWAZILAND EACH WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 1977, WITH ALL MEAT TO BE CARRIED BY GABONESE AIRPLANES. CONTRACT, WHICH HAS TEN-MONTH DURATION AND PRESUMABLY IS RENEWABLE FOR SIMILAR PERIOD, WAS COUNTERSIGNED BY SWAZILAND MINISTER OF MINES AND TOURISM NXUMALO AND GABONESE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MOUSSIROU.

2. WITH SIGNING OF PRIVATE AGREEMENT, SWAZILAND JOINS BURUNDI (REFTEL B) AS DEFINITE ALTERNATE TO GABON'S CURRENT BEEF IMPORTS FROM RHODESIA. ALTHOUGH INITIAL AGREEMENT WITH THESE TWO COUNTRIES WILL PROVIDE ONLY ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF CURRENT GABONESE MEAT CONSUMPTION, "L'UNION" ARTICLE MENTIONS THAT ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS
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WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SOON.

3. COMMENT: SIGNING OF BURUNDI AND SWAZILAND AGREEMENTS INDICATE THAT BONGO HAS TAKEN DECISION TO MOVE SERIOUSLY TOWARD ENDING CONTROVERSIAL RHODESIAN BEEF TRADE PRIOR NEXT JUNE'S OAU CONFERENCE.
STEIGMAN

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